

H.R. 1722, the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010

- H.R. 1722, the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010, would improve the efficiency of the federal workforce by increasing the use of telework.
- Telework provides a number of benefits including cost savings, emergency preparedness, reduced energy consumption, and increased worker productivity.
- This bill was introduced by Rep. Sarbanes and it passed the House on July 14, 2010, by a vote of 290 – 131. The Senate amended the bill and passed it by unanimous consent on September 30, 2010.
- The Senate's changes to H.R. 1722 represent a compromise between the House-passed bill and Senate legislation introduced by Senator Akaka. Chairman Towns and Representative Sarbanes fully support this compromise legislation.
- The Senate-passed bill requires each agency to establish a policy within six months under which agency employees may be authorized to telework. The bill requires the Office of Personnel Management to provide policy guidance to agencies and to annually report on agency telework programs.
- H.R. 1722 requires agencies to designate a telework managing officer to ensure effective development and implementation of telework plans. Each agency is also required to incorporate telework into its continuity of operations plan.
- The Senate amendments include key provisions that were unique to the House bill including the requirement that the Office of Management and Budget establish security guidelines for telework.
- The Senate amendments retain provisions from the Republican motion to recommit that was passed by the House. Specifically, the bill prohibits an employee from being authorized to telework if the employee has been disciplined for being absent without permission for more than five days or if the employee has been disciplined for violations related to viewing, downloading, or exchanging pornography on a federal government computer or while performing official duties.

- Telework legislation has had bipartisan support in the House. H.R. 1722 was approved by a voice vote in the Oversight Committee. In the 110th Congress, similar telework legislation passed the Committee and the House of Representatives by voice vote.
- This legislation is PAYGO neutral. There is no mandatory spending in this bill. CBO estimates that the bill will cost \$28 million over five years subject to the availability of appropriated funds.
- This is a good government bill that will save the federal government money and improve the efficiency and productivity of the federal workforce.